



## CHECKLIST OF THE FICIDAE OF THE WORLD

by R.N. KILBURN  
(Natal Museum)

The following checklist covers the known species of Ficidae, and is offered as a postscript to my account of the South African Ficus. A few unnecessary varietal names created by 19th Century authors are omitted. As an aid to identification, references are given to figures in recently published books. Synonymies are simplified by the omission of generic names.

*Ficus* Röding, 1798

a) INDO-WEST PACIFIC SPECIES:

1. *ficus* (Linn., 1767)  
Synonyms: *variegata* Röding, 1798; *laevigata* Reeve, 1847.  
Figured: Habe, pl. 23, fig. 10; Kilburn, pl. 1a.  
Range: Japan and Indonesia to South Africa.
2. *subintermedia* (D'Orbigny, 1852)  
Synonyms: *ficoides* Lamarck, 1822 (*non* Brocchi, 1814); *margaretae* Iredale, 1931.  
Figured: Dance, p. 120; Kira, pl. 23, fig. 11;  
Wilson & Gillett, pl. 49, fig. 9.  
Range: Japan and Fiji to South Africa.
3. *tessellata* (Kobelt, 1881)  
Figured: Wilson & Gillett, pl. 49, fig. 8.  
Range: North-Western Australia.  
Note: *Pyrula eospila* Peron, 1807, may prove to be an earlier name for this species.
4. *dussumieri* (Kiener, 1840)  
Synonym: *elongata* Gray, 1839 (*non* Lamarck, 1822).  
Figured: Dance, p. 120; Kira, pl. 23, fig. 12 (as *gracilis*).  
Range: South China Sea and Gulf of Siam.  
Note: *Pyrula gracilis* Sowerby, 1825, has been used by recent authors as an earlier name for *dussumieri*. However, Kosuge & Nomoto (1972) regard the name *gracilis* as applicable to a species from East Africa and the Gulf of Aden (evidently *F. investigatoris* (Smith)), and utilize *dussumieri* for the eastern subspecies of this. I agree with C. H. Bayer (1939) that Sowerby's original description of *gracilis* contains too few details for identification and prefer to treat it as a *nomen dubium*.

5. *investigatoris* (Smith, 1894)  
Range: East coast of India, 98–102 fathoms, and probably elsewhere in the north-west Indian Ocean.  
Note: possibly a subspecies of *F. dussumieri*.
6. *sewelli* (Prashad, 1927)  
Range: Laccadive Seas, 167–180 fathoms.  
Remarks: Doubtfully distinct from *F. investigatoris*.
7. *filosa* (Sowerby, 1892)  
Figured: Habe, pl. 24, fig. 9.  
Range: Japan and South China Sea to east coast of Australia.

b) WESTERN HEMISPHERE:

8. *ventricosa* (Sowerby, 1825)  
Synonym: *decussata* Wood, 1828  
Figured: Abbot, col. pl. 6, no. 1800; Keen, fig. 952.  
Range: Gulf of California to Peru.
9. *communis* Röding, 1798  
Synonyms: *reticulata* Lamarck, 1816; *papyratia* Say, 1822; *gracilis* Philippi, 1848 (*non* Sowerby, 1825).  
Figured: Abbott, col. pl. 6, no. 1796; Dance p. 120.  
Range: Gulf of Mexico to North Carolina.
10. *carolae* Clench, 1945  
Figured: Abbott, fig. 1797.  
Range: Florida to Mexico, 100 fathoms.  
Note: According to Abbott this may be a deep water form of *F. communis*.
11. *howelli* Clench & Aguayo, 1940.  
Synonym: *atlantica* Clench & Aguayo, 1940.  
Figured: Abbott, figs 1798, 1799.  
Range: Lower Caribbean and Brazil, 175–450 fathoms.  
Note: F.M. Bayer (1971) showed *atlantica* to be based on a female example, *howelli* on a male, the sexes differing slightly in colour pattern. An earlier name for the species may be *Ficus pellucida* (Deshayes, 1856).

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

*Thalassocyron* Barnard, 1960

12. *bonus* Barnard, 1960  
Figured: Kensley, p. 131, no. 442.  
Range: off west coast of Cape Peninsula, 2268 – 3036 metres.
13. *tui* Dell, 1967  
Range: off North Island, New Zealand, and off the Kermadec Islands, 746 – 1692 metres.

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#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS GWEN WEBBER

(Secretary of the Pietermaritzburg Group)

by J.L. TOSIO

Because we will no longer be able to attend meetings (due to our move to Port Shepstone) and as an ex-member of the Pietermaritzburg Group, I wish to pay tribute to Gwen, who took her duties as Secretary further than was called for.

Gwen always enthusiastically welcomed new members to the Group. More often than not, they were invited to partake of a delicious luncheon and a viewing of her precious shells, before attending their first meeting.

We will always be reminded of her generosity as we see several specimens she gave to us and we will not forget her sincere love of the hobby we all share.

#### HINTS ON PRESERVING CHITONS

BY DORIS SMITH

Chitons are not one of my favourites, but I've had a few requests from overseas exchange friends, for South African Chitons, and as my range of live taken shells is limited, I've made an effort to learn how to prepare them. If anyone is interested, this is a most successful method:

1. Take Chitons off rocks with a flat, broad putty knife and put into a plastic container of sea water (or a closed bottle if you are driving home, but keep in sea water).
2. Have ready thin plastic boards (cut from margarine boxes or similar containers) in lengths and widths suitable for different size chitons, also firm tape or flat binding.

3. Press Chiton flat on board and wrap tape round both board and Chiton until firmly secured. (When you are adept, it is possible to put a Chiton on each side of the board and wrap the two at the same time!)
4. Place wrapped Chiton(s) in a jar containing a solution of 50% Isopropyl alcohol, to cover. Leave for 24 hours.
5. Remove, loosen Chiton from board and place in another jar containing a solution of: – ½ glycerine (100%) and ½ alcohol (60%).
6. Keep small Chitons in this solution for 8 days. One to two inch size for 12 days and large ones for 3 to 5 weeks. (No harm done if you leave them in longer).
7. Remove onto clean paper or towelling to drip off, keeping flat.
8. Lastly rebind on to plastic boards to stay flat and prevent curling, which makes them useless for exchange and identification, until dry.

NOTE: Do not remove the animal.

Will keep indefinitely. Use materials and solution again and again.

Experienced collectors probably have successful methods, but I've seen no 'tips' in our publications since joining the Society, so the novice may be interested.

(A few tips were given in Circular No. 99 page 6. – Editor.)

#### INTERTIDAL TALK

It is with regret that we learn of the sudden passing of Mrs Gwen Webber, Secretary of the Pietermaritzburg group. We can only echo the views stated by Mrs Tosio in her tribute published elsewhere and extend to Mr Webber our deepest sympathies.

In the February/March issue, page 6 under the heading Around the Groups – East London we mentioned that a live *Cypraea fuscudentata* had been collected by Peter Bernt at Cape St. Francis. Mrs Latigan has since written giving us the following information. 'Peter Bernt found a live *Cypraea fuscudentata* at Cape St. Francis, about one mile west of the lighthouse, on 5th October, 1975. It was in about 4 inches of water on top of a big rock. The seas had been very rough and the tide low spring. The mantle was pinkish-brown all over and appeared smooth and extended about three quarter way over the shell. The top of the foot was the same colour as the mantle and the underside of the foot pale grey. No head, tentacles or siphon were seen. The animal has been extracted and sent to Mr Kilburn for study'.

A number of complaints against members about poor specimens sent in exchange parcels is causing concern. This practice can only bring discredit, not only to the members concerned, but also the Society as a whole. We must, therefore, ask that you only send good quality specimens in exchange. We have also had complaints from overseas dealers that certain members have purchased shells and failed to settle their accounts. In this respect we must warn members that this sort of practice brings discredit to the Society and should it continue we will have no option but to terminate the membership of the members concerned in terms of clause 13 of the constitution.



**EXCHANGES WANTED**

- Master M.A. Cowley, 92 Abbot Rd., Abbots Langley, Watford, Herts, England. Is a keen shell collector of nine years old and would like to contact some of our junior members of about the same age.
- Mr Alejandro Pressenda, a/c Banco De Italia, Pellegrini No. 11 - C.C. 302, 3100 Parana, Argentina. Saw the article in the South African Panorama and would like to obtain a selection of about 25 medium sized shells, which need not be very rare but must be spectacular.
- Mrs. S. Piplani, 26 Jameson Place, West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006, U.S.A. Is a collector with a special interest in building a collection of good quality specimens of world-wide Chitons and wants to contact members who will be willing to trade South African Chitons.
- Mr N. Deltil, 7 Rue Jean Mermoz, 94310 Orly, France. Would like to contact members with the view to adding to his collection.
- Mr J. Fabro, P.O. Box 45, Port Vila, New Hebrides. Wants to contact members who would like to exchange South African shells with those from the New Hebrides.
- Mrs K.J. Barrett-Lennard, Burgess Crescent, West Swan, Western Australia 6055. Would like to exchange with South African collectors.
- Mr J. Pollard, Box 191, Mahe, Seychelles. Would like to exchange with South African collectors. His main interests are Cones, Cowries and Murex.
- Prof. L. Ruggiero, Istituto Di Fisica, Facolta Di Science, Universita Di Lecce, 73100 Lecce, Italy. Collects shells as a hobby and would like to exchange with South African collectors.
- Mr H.R. Kinge, 84 Ormond Rd., Gisborne, New Zealand. Is interested in any local South African shells and can offer New Zealand, Australian and Florida shells in exchange.
- Mr G. Trappe, 5308 Rheinbach, Fliederstrasse 6, West Germany. Is interested in all shells and would like to exchange with South African collectors.

**CHANGES TO JANUARY 1976, MEMBERSHIP LIST**

**NEW MEMBERS:**

- S 1976 Master D. Levitt, 12 Birkett Rd., Rondebosch 7700
- S 1976 Miss D. Levitt, 12 Birket Rd., Rondebosch 7700
- S 1976 Master D. Lowrie, 6 Linnet Way, Pinelands 7405
- S 1976 Master A. Carlsson, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450
- 1976 Miss K. Taylor, 18 Lilburn Crescent, Massey, Henderson, Auckland 8, New Zealand
- S 1976 Miss P.F. Forbes, 24 Mill Court, Main Road, Mowbray 7700
- 1976 Mrs F.M. Myburgh, D3 Westerford Close, Mount Road, Rondebosch 7700
- 1976 Miss F. Lennox, Bedford Farm, Private Bag, Harding 4680
- 1976 Mr. M. Pétrement, 11a Rue De Mulhouse, 68000 Colmar, France
- 1976 Master M.A. Crowley, 92 Abbots Rd., Abbots Langley, Watford, Herts WD5 0BH, England
- 1976 Mrs. E.E.F. Sadler, c/o P.O. Box 506, Port Elizabeth 6000

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

- 1961 Mr J. Lighton, 12 Pinewood, Pinewood Rd., Rondebosch 7700
- 1975 Mr A. Andrade e Silva, Avenida De Portugal 18A, Estoril, Portugal (formerly Transvaal)
- 1966 Miss E. Fitchett, c/o Standard Bank, P.O. Box 802, Pretoria 0001 (formerly Western Cape)
- 1972 Mrs. I. Davies, 19 Ainsworth Crescent, Somerset West 7130
- 1973 Mr L.M.C. Fouche, 66 Van Laun Crescent, Fichardt Park, Bloemfontein 9301
- 1959 Mrs. C. Moore, 3 Orton Street, Gansbaai 7220
- 1973 Mr C.T. Stuart, c/o Vermin Control Research Station, Private Bag 614, Robertson 6705 (formerly South West Africa)
- 1972 Mr W.P. Small, Cobham Forest Station, Himeville 4585
- 1971 Miss M.E. Booth, P.O. Box 17607, Hillbrow, Johannesburg 2038
- 1973 Mr C.T. Tosio, Umzimkulu Sugar Co. Ltd., P.O. Box 59, Port Shepstone 4240
- 1973 Mrs C.T. Tosio, Umzimkulu Sugar Co. Ltd., P.O. Box 59, Port Shepstone 4240

**BOOK REVIEW**

THE MUREX BOOK, an Illustrated Catalogue of Recent Muricidae (Muricinae, Muricopsinae, Ocenebrinae), by Ruth H. Fair. Published by Ruth H. Fair, Honolulu, Hawaii.

This soft covered book of 138 pages contains a mine of information. The first 16 pages consists of the Forward, Acknowledgements and Introduction. The catalogue proper starts on page 17 and this and the next 71 pages contains a list, in alphabetical order of specific names, of close on nine hundred entries. Many of these entries include a description of the shell, in most cases the original. There are also numerous text figures. The remainder of the book consists of 23 plates illustrating 363 shells. All text figures and illustrations are in black and white and in some cases are not too clear.

Apart from minor shortcomings, no colour illustrations and the fact that the binding does not seem to be first class (I think that after limited use the book will start falling apart), this is definitely a useful publication to have on ones bookshelf, it will be most helpful, not only to the Murex specialist, but also to the 'general' collector.

The book is obtainable from Ruth Fair, The Murex Book, 863, Kalanipuu Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825, and is priced at U.S. \$8.50.

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The Society's Bulletin, The Strandloper is issued free to members.

The Society has active groups in the following areas:-

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	141 to 160	R2,00
	161 to 170	10 cents each.
		no index.

Write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 98, Howard Place 7450.

## AROUND THE GROUPS

**CAPE TOWN.** At our February meeting the shells for display and discussion were the Chitons and Cassis. Mrs Giles gave an illustrated talk on the Chitons explaining the structure and sculpture of the plates and girdle. Members were encouraged to examine the specimens on display under a microscope. Mr Carlsson then led a brief discussion on the Cassis on display. After tea a film on the Okinawa Expo '75, with the theme 'Man and the Sea' was screened.

**PORT ELIZABETH.** At our January meeting we discussed all bivalves occurring between Cape St. Francis and Port Alfred. Of a potential 100 odd species, at least 75 were on show, nearly all of which could be named. Some of the more interesting recent finds were *Lima fragilis* Sowerby and *Donax bipartitus* Sowerby, both from Algoa Bay (Amsterdam Hoek). At our February meeting Mr McLachlan mentioned that the University of Port Elizabeth had made a survey of marine life at the P.E. Sea Reserve. Little of special interest had been found. He did, however, promise to provide a list of all molluscs as found in the Reserve. As special finds of the month there were a fresh *Cypraea lamarkii* Gray from the mouth of the Swartkops River and a complete specimen of *Schizodesam spengleri* Linné from the same spot. The family Nassariidae was then discussed.

**EAST LONDON.** At a meeting of the three remaining members of the committee it was decided that Mrs P. Palmer be the new Chairman, to hold office till the next Annual General Meeting. It was also decided that the vacancies on the committee caused by the transfer of Mrs Latigan and Mr and Mrs Brickhill not be filled for the time being. A social cum meeting, which was attended by seven members with apologies from three was held at the home of Mrs Palmer. This meeting confirmed the decision taken by the Committee and meetings in future will be held in private homes.

**DURBAN.** We ended 1975 with a meeting and a braaivleis which we are sure was enjoyed by all. The lucky dip for a Christmas shell was well patronised and some very nice shells were exchanged. Our first meeting of 1976 was held at the home of Colin Hanneman on 14th February and was well attended. We were distressed to learn of the sudden death of Mrs Webber, Secretary of the Pietermaritzburg Group, and wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Mr Webber. Many of us having attended Mr Kilburn's talk the previous week on the Thias chose for our meeting the same family in order to up-date our collections while the information was still fresh in our minds. From the shells which were brought to the meeting it was obvious that this is a family which needs more attention, as there were many 'gaps' in collections, especially missing were the Cape specimens.

**JOHANNESBURG.** Teething problems were discussed at our first meeting of the year when Don Aiken discussed the radula in Gastropoda and other classes of molluscs. Using charts he demonstrated a typical radula in each of the sub-orders of Gastropods, commencing with the most primitive order, the herbivorous Archaeogastropoda, through Mesogastropoda to the carnivorous Neogastropoda which embraces the sophisticated weaponry of the family Conidae. Other classes discussed were the Amphineura (Chitons), Scaphopoda (Tusk Shells) and Cephalopoda which includes the Octopus. On display were a formidable pair of octopus 'beaks' and radulae in phials. Bobby Adam supported Don's talk by showing slides which were grouped in pairs, each consisting of a shell followed by a photomicrograph of a corresponding radula.

**PRETORIA.** Laurie Smith vertel die Januarie vergadering van hul vakansie aan die Suidkus van Natal. Hy het ongeveer vyftig spesies skulpe op die strand versamel en dié baie netjies uitgestal. By die strandskulpe was onder andere 'n *Conus eumites*. Die toekennings vir die November 1975 Skulpuitstallings is deur Mnr Slingerland aan die prysweners oorhandig. Elke toekening is 'n skilderstuk van een vier spesies skulpe deur André Moser geskilder en gemoniteer. Ter waardering van haar werk is 'n geskenk, in haar afwesigheid, aan Laurie Smith oorhandig. Daar is sedertdien verneem dat André in haar skik is met die geskenk. At our February meeting we discussed the proposed Shell Show rules, copies of which were handed to members. We also discussed the venue for the next Shell Exhibition. After various other business matters, including plastic boxes and the proposed visit of Mr Abbottsmith, our Chairman discussed and demonstrated the terminology of shells.

### SMALLS

Shells for Sale: *Conus milneedwardsi*, *Conus hairstowi*, *Cypraea capensis* and *Cypraea edentual*. Write to Mrs F. Stäger-Le Clair, 11 Teema Court, 11 Harris Street, Port Elizabeth 6001  
Wanted to Buy: *Argonauta nodosa*, *Argonauta hians* and *Nautilus pompilius*. Contact Mr J. Jeffrey, 20 Myrtle Road, George 6530.